

32 to 36 Weeks of Pregnancy



Refer to pages 55-60, and 165 in your [Pregnancy & Childbirth Handbook](#) for more information

Your Baby

Interesting Facts: All body systems and organs have grown close to maturity. Your baby will still have active and sleep cycles; but will slowly be moving into position for birth.

Size: about 18 inches

Weight: 5 pounds

Your Body

As your baby grows bigger, your heartburn may increase or you may get out of breath quicker. Lying down to sleep may prove to be more difficult. Your vaginal secretions increase. Hemorrhoids may become a problem.

Your Visit

We look forward to seeing you every two weeks starting at 36 weeks of pregnancy. During your appointment, the Healthcare Provider will listen to your baby's heart rate with a doppler, measure your pregnancy with a tape measure, and manually locate. Around 36 weeks of pregnancy you will be screened for a bacterium called group beta streptococcus.

What is Group Beta Streptococcus?

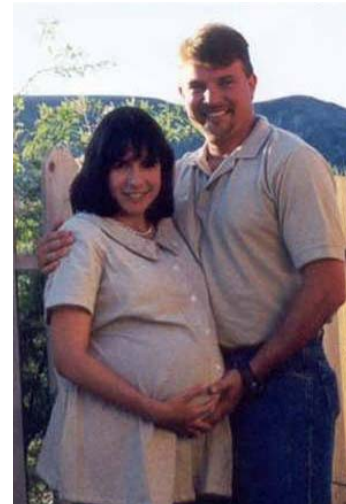
Also known as GBS, this bacterium normally lives in the intestines or vagina and causes no harm to the adult woman. GBS can invade your baby's system and produce a blood infection or lung disease that can lead to death.

How do you screen for GBS?

You will be asked to undress from the waist down. A culture swab will be inserted into the vagina and then around the rectum. This procedure should not be uncomfortable.

What if I have GBS?

If you have GBS, you will be treated with antibiotics when you are admitted to labor and delivery. Please make sure you tell your Healthcare Provider if you are allergic to any medications.



Your Responsibility

Please pre-register at the hospital you plan to birth your baby. Set up a time to tour your hospital's labor and delivery unit. Keep your prenatal appointments. Make sure your baby has good movement. Keep exercising and eating healthy. Drink at least 3 to 4 quarts of fluid a day. Practice what you have learned from your childbirth classes. Encourage your partner or family member to come with you to your next appointment.